

**From:** Pat Garrett  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2019 6:13 PM  
**To:** WCSO - INTERNAL  
**Subject:** Decision In Light of City of Portland Changes

Hello,

Until further notice, enforcement activity that does not have a direct nexus to Washington County is not authorized in the City of Portland.

### **Why Did We Make This Decision?**

Portland city leaders made recent decisions which created very concerning circumstances if we respond to help in their City and use force. We recognize this situation (and the course of action it dictates) is less than ideal. Maintaining strong, cooperative and supportive relationships with all of our regional partners is far and away the preferred state of affairs and helps ensure safe and effective law enforcement services for the communities we serve.

I attached a detailed memo with recommendations by our County Counsel's Office so you can read for yourself the factors we (Executive Team) considered in making this decision. As you will see, it is not risk to Washington County or the Sheriff's Office that is most concerning; it is the very real *personal* liability and legal risk to our own staff that is most worrisome. The accompanying stress and anxiety to which our staff members would be exposed, should they need to use force while in Portland, is not a risk we would ever ask you to bare. I hope this helps provide some perspective.

### **What Does This Decision Mean?**

Enforcement teams, or individual staff members, may not respond to the City of Portland, to assist with cases or events if there is no **direct nexus** to Washington County. Conducting follow-up in the City of Portland on a Washington County case remains authorized, so long as you ensure your supervisor is aware (when feasible). Notifying supervisors allows us to fulfill our responsibility to ensure appropriate planning and risk mitigation.

Very important, we will still send help during a significant life threatening emergency such as a *Code 0* or active shooter. Our friends and colleagues at the Portland Police Bureau are terrific partners, great professionals and we care about them and their safety as we do our other partners. Unfortunately, the current political climate forces us to make this difficult decision, but one I truly believe is in the best interest of those on our WCSO team who would respond into the City.

Related, while Portland City Council voted yesterday to separate from the Joint Terrorism Task Force, we continue to assign an investigator to the JTTF as an important interagency strategy to keep Washington County residents safe.

I expect some of you will have questions, and they will help us clarify where needed. We will meet with enforcement supervisors on Wednesday 2/20 to discuss this matter further. If you have questions, please route to an enforcement supervisor or command officer so that we can address them. I will send an update as needed.

Thank you.

Pat

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